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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 10, 1903.

"TURN ON THE LIGHT!"

A resolution introduced on Monday in the City Council has given opportunity to some of our contemporaries, to indulge in their usual pleasantry about some members of that body, intermingled with misstatements to deceive the ordinary citizen, who does not either "read between the lines," or dive beneath the surface to find the "true inwardness" of things and of journalistic comment thereupon.

The resolution was introduced by Councilman A. J. Davis. Its preparation and the motives behind it need not just now be ventilated; they will do so to keep for a little while. It provided for "the auditing of the books of every city official and head of a department who in any way handles any of the city's funds, the auditing to be done by two expert accountants, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, and to cover the period from the date of the last examination of such accounts up to date." Councilmen Cottrell and Fernstrom opposed the resolution and viewed it as a scheme to cast reflection and suspicion upon present city officials, and also to find fat jobs for some of the mover's expert friends. This, of course, he emphatically denied, and the resolution was ultimately referred to the finance committee, by a vote of eight to seven.

Whatever may have been the motive for presenting the resolution, it was, we think, very properly referred to the finance committee. To oppose an investigation of the city finances and the keeping of the city accounts, might be construed as an exhibition of fear lest such an inquiry might disclose something unpleasant or improper. Therefore the finance committee should look into the matter, and see if there is any reason for this special inquiry and for the employment of expert accountants to do the work. Incidentally, too, the amount behind the motion might be brought to light, and the reasons for this purported anxiety as to the matter be explained to the public.

Now as to the opposition to the passage of the resolution. The Herald, which is gaining much notoriety for its manufacture of news that has no foundation in fact, says editorially, that Fernstrom "attributed the resolution to a desire to discredit Mormon officials," and then proceeds to argue on that basis in favor of the investigation. The truth is that Councilman Fernstrom made no allusion to "Mormon" or any other class of officials. Nor does the resolution aim at any such class. The statement is sheer fiction on the part of the Herald, like other assertions of that paper in regard to current events. The resolution includes "the books of every city official and head of department." It has no reference to Mormon, Gentile or Jew. Nor was any objection to it raised on such a ground. So much for that.

Now as to the investigation of city finances and accounts: The City Auditor is the legal officer to perform that work; he has to make his reports regularly to the council, and these are published periodically. But who is to examine the books and see that his work is properly performed? The Mayor and the finance committee of the council have that right and can exercise it at any time, and his accounts should be gone over annually at least, for that purpose. Probably Councilman Davis has not been engaged in that kind of inquiry, although he is a member of the finance committee. As he has been employed so much in eastern and Ogden work for a certain private company, for about a third of the time he should have been at his post, he may not be aware of what the committee has done. But the law provides for ample means of investigation of city accounts, and the Mayor and the finance committee could employ experts when necessary for special investigation. The resolution, therefore, exhibits either ignorance of the law or some ulterior motive which is not difficult to discover and may perhaps be brought to the surface.

But about that \$5,000 appropriation. If the resolution means what it says, the amount named is insignificant and absurd. The examination would have to go back to the beginning of the city's administration, as no such special expert inquiry has heretofore been made in the manner proposed. Not that there has been no inspection of books and accounts, but these have been conducted in ordinary course, and not as wanted by the mover of the resolution. To go over all the books and accounts of every city official and head of department even for one year would cost more than that sum, as experts of the kind suggested would be paid \$10 per day each, for their services. And to go back to the beginning would bankrupt the city and would take too long for election purposes in 1903.

The truth is, the resolution was not well prepared, and the purpose was not that which appears on its face. Personal and political motives lie behind it, and a knowledge of these prompted the opposition to it which was offered in the council. Now let the finance committee determine what needs to be

done, and exercise the authority vested in it for the purpose in view. And by all means, "turn on the light!" Let it be bright enough and penetrating enough to pierce to the bottom of things, and make clear all that is behind this sudden and pretended wish to make an investigation of books and accounts, that ought to have been examined in the times and seasons required. Yea, certainly, and fully, "turn on the light!"

TALKING OF ANOTHER STRIKE.

There is some talk of a renewal of the coal strike, that last year was so disastrous. The district boards of the mine workers have adjourned, with the purpose of holding a joint session on the 15th of this month, to determine whether a general suspension of work shall again be ordered. The discord seems to be about the recognition of certain "district presidents" of the miners, as members of the conciliation board.

But the point of dispute appears to be extremely fine, almost imperceptible. The operators refuse to acknowledge the three presidents as representatives of the miners, but they say they are perfectly willing to accept them as the representatives of the miners, provided they are elected by a majority of them and at a convention in which non-union miners are represented, too. To the general public it would seem that there is not enough importance to this contention, to warrant a move by which the disasters of the last coal strike would be repeated.

When that strike was adjusted, both parties agreed to submit to the findings of a board of conciliation, in which both parties were adequately represented. There should be no unnecessary quibbling about credentials. The question of making permanent peace between operators and miners is the first and chief consideration. And if the leading spirits of the two parties are unable to get together by their own efforts, it is time for the state to make arbitration compulsory, in the interest of the general public.

The labor situation, not only in this country, but throughout the world, is becoming quite grave. Dr. Chamberlain, professor in the University of Chicago, at a recent banquet ventured to say that "things are transpiring in Chicago which are causing citizens grave concern." He alluded to the labor question and the fact that people are being denied the right to work and to manage their affairs in their own way. He added: "Respect for civil law and obligation alone can save this country from a civil war in the next generation." This may appear to be an extreme view, but who can say that there is no danger in that direction?

DRESSED FACTS.

Kansas papers bitterly complain of the exaggerated reports published in the eastern press about the flood situation. The Star says the yellow journals of New York, and even other publications, have printed the most absurd stories. One paper told its readers that "thousands of persons line the streets begging for something to eat. They do not beg because they are paupers. Most of them have an abundance of money; but it is a question of supplies and money is not needed." Other statements were made to the effect that "40,000 persons were destitute and homeless, that 90,000 railway cars had been lost in the flood; that thousands of persons line the streets begging for something to eat; that there is little bread and meat in the city and that neither railroads nor farm wagons can reach the town with supplies."

It is a peculiar fact that a number of newspaper readers are not satisfied with a statement of facts. They consider that dry reading. They prefer a fanciful presentation of an occurrence, to the simple truth, for the same reason that they prefer reading a novel to perusing history. There is always a peculiar fascination about fiction. Facts as the late Bill Nye put it, "Are like little children, born into the earth, nude; and, like little children, they should be dressed." But newspaper readers do not like the trouble of dressing. They prefer to have it done for them. And the reporters generally do the "dressing," and too often the outward drapery becomes so fantastic, as to preclude every possibility of recognizing the fact that may be hidden under the folds and felices.

It is a pity that so many newspapers should be liable to the charge of deliberate falsification, for mercenary reasons. If they would present only facts, and let the public draw their own conclusions, they would be more potent for good than they are.

GIFTS TO THE PRESIDENT.

The King of Italy has sent President Roosevelt a valuable gift of books, printed with the royal crest and the King's monogram. This, no doubt, is a precious addition to the presents of which President Roosevelt lately has been the recipient. And it may possibly prove the beginning of a series of royal gifts. For other monarchs may deem it important not to let the Italian sovereign have any advantage over them.

The Springfield Republican publishes a long list of presents received by the President during his western tour. It is quite interesting to see what people deemed suitable as tokens of respect and esteem toward the Chief Representative of the nation. The chiefs of the Sioux nations gave him a peace pipe, made by a skilled Indian craftsman. At Gardner, Mont., he received a Masonic charm and a gold nugget. Kansas City gave him a walking stick, with a membership to one of her clubs in it; and Abilene, Kans., added a battle-scarred football to the pile. Denver's gift was a gold badge and a golden program of the order of events which occurred while the President was within her boundaries, and the colored people of Colorado Springs gave him a silver medal. A live ladder was presented to the President at Sharon Springs, Kans., and a Navajo blanket was the Albuquerque, N. M., offering. Santa Fe contributed her history. At Pasadena, Cal., a golden key was wait-

ing for the President. California was prodigal in gifts, and did more than her share. Redlands gave him a silver plate, and then went through the ceremony of dedicating a big tree to him. In San Francisco the people were very generous. A golden group of bear hunters was given to him, and also a silver and gold canteen, and a gold vase. Then, as the presidential procession passed through the streets of the city, an aged hunter rushed out from the throng with two sets of elk antlers, and these, too, went on the list. Redding, Cal., gave him copper specimens. At Portland, Or., a bear cub was fastened to the engine which drew Mr. Roosevelt's car. Tacoma, Wash., gave him a plate made from a bit of the keel of the battleship Oregon. The plate was inclosed in a beautiful case made from the wood which was in the captain's cabin. Alaska sent her gifts to meet the President at Tacoma, and among them was a placer miner's pan made of solid gold. Another was a golden purse filled with passes to Alaska. The citizens of Anacosta sent him a vase made of all the precious metals which are found in Montana, and the vase was set with gems. Butte gave him a picture, etched in copper, and Nevada City, Nev., added a box of quartz. Cheyenne and Douglas, Wyo., offered a horse, bridle and saddle, the two latter mounted in gold. Besides these there were moccasins, buckskin suits, mounted heads of animals, and Indian beadwork in almost carload lots.

In Salt Lake City the President was the recipient of a number of presents. Among these was a silver spoon, gold plated, given by the Woman's Republican club. This souvenir was a beautiful specimen of the engraver's art, bearing a picture of the Salt Lake Temple on one side. He was also given a cane of Utah native wood, artistically carved by Mr. Sam Gibson, and an elegant glass mug by Mr. H. L. Stein.

It is evident that the President will have a respectable museum, if he takes care of all these things.

A pest house is a pest at best.

The Moros are to have autonomy. Now will they be good?

The Union Pacific strike is ended. All's well that ends well.

Venice, Illinois, has plenty of water, but is sadly lacking in gondolas.

Bring on your strawberry festivals. Utah berries are in the field.

In the matter of price it looks as though radium would have to give way to polonium.

"For this relief, much thanks," remarked the Arkansas as it reached New Orleans.

Yesterday the lightning played pranks, but in one or two instances it came near playing havoc.

On the escutcheon of the new autonomous colony of the Philippines let the motto be: O Tempus O Moros!

Did some of the Kansas sky get shifted over Salt Lake yesterday afternoon? The "showers" indicated that it did.

Jett is very confident while White weeps. This shows the difference between black and white in criminal matters.

It has been proven by citation from Scott's "Woodstock," that "lobster is a proper word to use and good English." Lobster is also good eating.

If Mr. Chamberlain resigns from the Balfour cabinet it will be bad for the Conservative government, for he is a full team and a dog under the wagon.

Could those waters that have gone to waste in the Mississippi valley have been caught in the Great Basin, they would have made of Utah a vast garden spot.

Surgical instrument makers and dealers have met in Detroit and perfected an organization for the benefit of their business. The benefit will be derived from "bleeding" the public.

Those Mexican miners at Morenci know as much about the true methods of striking as any native born Americans do. It is one of the exhibitions of free government these days.

The Kansas City Clearing House Association has formally and officially announced that Kansas City is "all right." People thought it was all water.

Dr. Hyatt says that Great Salt Lake is not falling; on the contrary it is rising. If he keeps on talking like that, he will be the most popular man in the state.

The Massachusetts senate has just rejected a bill appropriating a quarter of a million dollars for the extirpation of the gypsy moth. To the Massachusetts farmers the gypsy moth has been the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Down in Massachusetts there has been an innovation in the coming out of debutantes. They come out at open air teas. Maud was the first debutante to come out in this manner. When her best fellow sang "Come in to the garden, Maud," she made her debut.

GREAT BRITAIN AND TARIFF.

Springfield Republican.

The weight of Mr. Chamberlain's argument for a preferential tariff is that it is for the sake of the empire. As for the 12,000,000 of people in the United Kingdom, he is ready to look upon them, as Lord Welby expresses it, "as if they were the parish pump." Yet, curiously enough, it appears that the empire is not altogether in agreement with Mr. Chamberlain. The Canadians may be said to be almost unanimous for any scheme that would place their wheat in the British market without meeting American competition, but the Australians do not show any enthusiasm for the scheme. The Australian press, in commenting on Mr. Chamberlain's Birmingham speech two weeks ago, was conspicuous in criticism.

Baltimore Sun.

Mr. Chamberlain has the opportunity of his life. If he is driven to desperate straits it may be taken for granted that he will stick his tongue in his cheek and ring the changes on the use of "American gold" to reduce John Bull to a state of industrial helplessness and put his manufacturers out of

business. All that is necessary to make Britain howl with rage at the wicked design of American manufacturers and farmers to defeat the protectionist movement in England is for Prime Minister Balfour to secure bills of the protectionist press of 1834, 1838 and 1832 and copies of the orations of high tariff spellbinders, change the phraseology so as to suit British conditions and then appeal to English voters not to be bribed by American gold to continue a fiscal policy which "spells ruin." If the average Mr. Bull is in a state of high men as many American voters are, the result of these tactics will be immensely pleasing to those British statesmen who have donned the garb of the American protectionists.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

There is another feature of the Chamberlain policy that is kept in the background just now, but which may have an important bearing on the attitude of the colonies. Mr. Chamberlain some time ago tentatively suggested that imperial tariff federation naturally involved co-operation in imperial defense. Great Britain would make large sacrifices to colonial interests by during a tariff war with other nations. It was therefore to be expected that the colonies would contribute liberally to imperial defense should tariff wars give place to military and naval warfare. The response to that suggestion was not cordial. None of the colonies desired to place itself under obligations to do what it might voluntarily do with prompt alacrity. The knowledge that this is an integral feature of the federation scheme, although kept in abeyance for the moment, may prove a serious obstacle in the adoption of the preferential tariff arrangement.

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